



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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1 FEBRUARY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. North Vietnam

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the Foreign Ministry today issued a denunciation of the new US air strikes. The statement does not break any new ground. Hanoi also took a hardline in commenting on the UN. It asserted that any attempt by the Security Council to "interfere" in Vietnam would be "completely null and void."

Ghana's President Nkrumah is again planning a trip to Peking and Hanoi. This one is now set for late February, but he is sending one of his advisers to scout the ground beforehand. An earlier trip fell through when Ho Chi Minh claimed that Nkrumah's safety could not be guaranteed.

2. Thailand

The Thai Government is annoyed again by US press reports discussing Thai cooperation with US air strikes in Laos and Vietnam. Prime Minister Thanom told Ambassador Martin yesterday that these reports are making it difficult for him to collaborate with the US. He also claimed that repetition of these reports in Communist radio-broadcasts is endangering the stability of his government.

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3. Indonesia

Sukarno now plans to announce his long-awaited "political solution" on Saturday [redacted].

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This solution will be to reorganize all political parties under "NASAKOM"-- Sukarno's acronym for the fusion of nationalist, religious, and Communist groups in the country. To prepare against possibly strong military reaction, Sukarno has directed certain elite military units in the Djakarta area to bypass the regular command channels and take orders directly from the palace.

The army's attitude to this maneuver is still unclear. However, if it succeeds it would go far to restore Sukarno's authority, open the way for renewed Communist influence and thus seriously threaten the anti-Communist forces.

4. Singapore

Fighting broke out today between Chinese and Malay army recruits in Singapore. This was the first significant racial disturbance since the large-scale riots of a year and a half ago.

Antagonism between Chinese and the Malays has increased as a result of the political warfare between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. It promises to remain a major threat to the stability of both countries for some time to come.

5. Nigeria

The new Ironsi regime intends to revamp the Nigerian Government structure in order to get stronger central authority. [redacted]

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this will mean abolishing the four semi-autonomous regions in favor of a larger number of provinces directly accountable to Lagos. Such an arrangement is likely to be resisted by some of the older traditional leaders, especially in the North.

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